

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Logistics Operations School
Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools
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STUDENT HANDOUT

MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE ORGANIZATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- a. Terminal Learning Objective. Without the aid of references, describe the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Organizational structure per the references.
- b. Enabling Learning Objectives: Without the aid of and per the references, describe the MAGTF organizational structure on a multiple choice exam by identifying the:
 1. Major units of the Fleet Marine Force.
 2. Major units of the Marine Division.
 3. Major units of the Marine Air Wing.
 4. Major units of the Force Service Support Group.
 5. Elements of a MAGTF and from where they are sourced.
 6. Types of MAGTF's.
 7. Notional composition of a Marine Expeditionary Force.
 8. Notional composition of a Marine Expeditionary Brigade.
 9. Notional composition of a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

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OUTLINE:

1. Introduction. MARITIME STRATEGY. The United States is a maritime nation with coastlines on two oceans. Throughout history the United States Marine Corps has been called upon to respond to crisis situations around the globe of varying actions. The Marine Corps prides itself as being the nations force in readiness. Our ability to respond to virtually any contingency is best manifested in the employment of our MAGTF's as landing forces for the Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Fleets.

a. Sea Lines of Communication. The United States is a maritime nation and depends on sea lines of communications for economic trade and to exercise international policy.

b. Strategic Chokepoints. Strategic chokepoints are those areas along sea lines of communications which restrict movement of surface vessels due to geographic features. Strategic chokepoints may be as narrow as the Straits of Gibraltar or the Panama Canal, or as wide as the GIUK Gap (an imaginary line drawn from Greenland, to Iceland, to the United Kingdom).

2. Marine Forces. Marine Corps operating forces are drawn from a reservoir we call the Marine Force. From these reservoirs we can task organize our forces and create Marine Air-Ground Task Forces of any size or composition and tailor them to accomplish any mission.

3. Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). An integrated Air-Ground Team, at the tactical level, under the direction and control of a single commander. The MAGTF is task organized to accomplish assigned missions and designed to exploit combat power of closely integrated Air-Ground operations.

a. Operational Characteristics

- (1) Expeditionary Readiness
- (2) Strategic Mobility
- (3) Forcible Entry Capability
- (4) Environmental Versatility
- (5) Integrated Sea/Air/Land
- (6) Tactical Surprise (Over-the-Horizon -- OTH)

b. MAGTF Capabilities. The ability of the MAGTF to task organize and deploy rapidly is one of its strengths. Forward

basing, sealift and seabasing, airlift, and prepositioning enable rapid deployment of the MAGTF.

c. MAGTF Employment. Although sometimes employed independently, MAGTF operations of an independent nature would likely be limited in both scope and duration. In most cases, the MAGTF will function under the control of a unified, sub-unified, or joint task force command.

(1) Established Theater - Other forces are in place.

(2) Austere Theater - No infrastructure or forces present.

d. Types of MAGTF's. MAGTF's range in size from the smallest (which can number from fewer than 100 to 3,000 Marines) to the largest (which can number from 40,000 to 100,000 Marines). There are four basic types of MAGTF's.

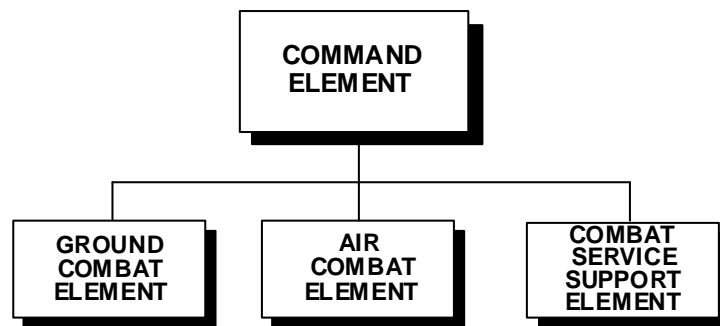
(1) Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF)

(2) Marine Expeditionary Force [Forward] (MEF FWD)

(3) Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)

(4) Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF)

e. MAGTF Composition. Regardless of the size of the MAGTF, all have the same basic structure. There are four elements of a MAGTF, the command element, the ground combat element, the aviation combat element, the combat service support element, and the combat service support element.



(1) Command Element (CE). The command element is the Marine Corps mechanism on the battlefield by which combat power is synchronized to achieve tactical and operational advantage over the enemy. The CE provides a command and control system for effective planning and execution of operations, and is designed to facilitate the sequencing of additional MAGTF's as

necessary. The surveillance, reconnaissance and intelligence group (SRIG) provides command, control, communications, and the complete spectrum of intelligence support to the MAGTF. 2nd SRIG was dissolved in FY-98 and its former units are now independent units under the direct control of the MEF.

(a) Composition of the Command Element

1. MAGTF Commander
2. Deputy Commander
3. SRI Group (or former SRIG units)
4. General Staff
5. Staff

(b) Functions of the Command Element. Several key aspects of the CE activities are different from those of its major subordinate commands.

- 1 Land operations
- 2 Requesting and integrating joint capabilities
- 3 Collecting intelligence
- 4 Deep, close, and rear operations
- 5 Deception and psychological operations
- 6 Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) weapon systems
- 7 Interoperable command, control, and communications network
- 8 MAGTF concept of operations
- 9 Task organizing the MAGTF forces

(c) **Functional Areas.** Functional responsibilities are the same for each echelon of command within the MAGTF. These functional areas serve to establish the focus of effort of the MAGTF command element.

- 1 Manpower and Administration (G/S-1)
- 2 Intelligence (G/S-2)

3 Operations (G/S-3)

a Current operations section

b Future operations section

4 Command, Control, and Communications
Countermeasures (C³CM)

5 Mobility/Counter mobility/Survivability

6 Nuclear, Biological and Chemical

7 Logistics/Combat Service Support (G/S-4)

8 Air

9 Air Defense

(2) Ground Combat Element (GCE). The GCE conducts ground combat operations. It is composed of an infantry unit varying in size from a platoon of Marines to one or more divisions. It has combat support units and some organic combat service support capability.

(3) Aviation Combat Element (ACE). The ACE conducts air operations and provides aviation support to the GCE and Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). It is composed of aviation units. It varies in size from a reinforced helicopter squadron to a reinforced Air Wing. It routinely integrates air/ground combat operations. This is a critical element in the effective application of combined arms. Coordination among the CE, GCE, and ACE is achieved through the integrated Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS). It has some combat support and combat service support units also.

(4) Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). The CSSE provides the range of combat service support functions and capabilities necessary to support the MAGTF's mission. It complements combat service support capabilities of the GCE, ACE and CE. It is composed of supply, landing support, maintenance, transportation, general engineering, health services, and services (disbursing, postal, exchange services, information systems, legal, security support, civil affairs support, and graves registration).

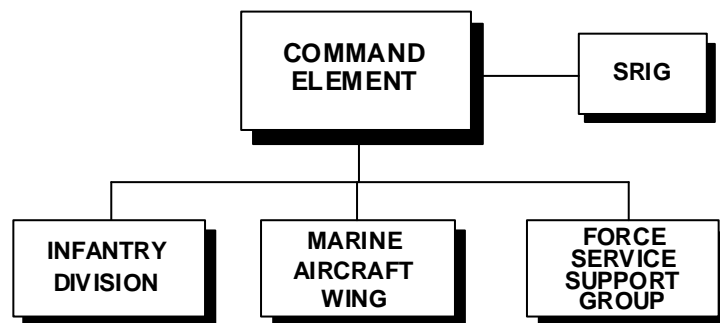
4. Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). A MEF is the largest and most capable MAGTF. Because the MEF can deploy with a formidable fighting force that can sustain itself, it is the Marine Corps

"Force of Choice". It is normally composed of assets from one or more Marine divisions, wings, and FSSG's. A MEF is normally commanded by a Lieutenant General.

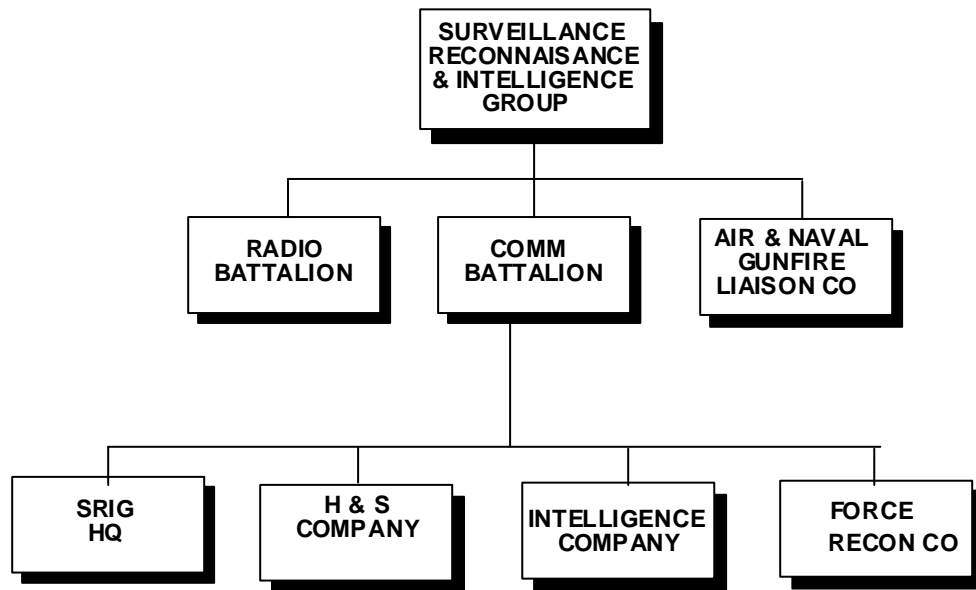
a. **Permanent MEF Headquarters**

- (1) I MEF - Camp Pendleton, California
- (2) II MEF - Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
- (3) III MEF - Okinawa, Japan

b. **Notional MEF.** A MEF's typical composition provides for the following organization:



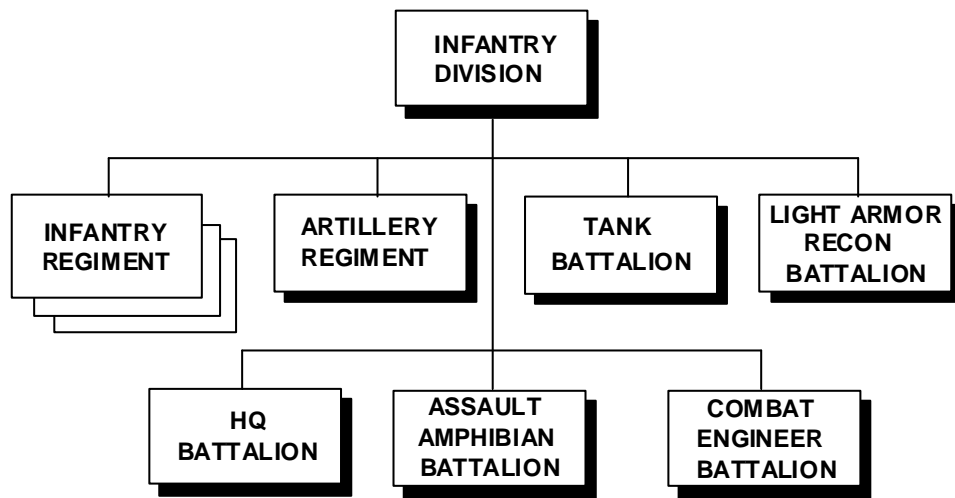
(1) Command Element. Same structure as stated in Paragraph 3. e. (1) above. Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group (SRIG). The SRIG is the newest group within the operating force establishment. It has incorporated all the specialized battalions and companies that were previously under operational control (OPCON) of the operating force headquarters into a single organization which exercises both operational and administrative control. Normally commanded by a colonel, it is responsible for the centralized management of intelligence collection tasks. Major subordinate units are:



- (a) SRIG Headquarters
- (b) Radio Battalion (RADBN)
- (c) Comm Battalion
- (d) Air & Naval Gunfire Liaison Co
- (e) SRIG HQ
- (f) H&S Co
- (g) Intelligence Company
- (h) Force Reconnaissance Company

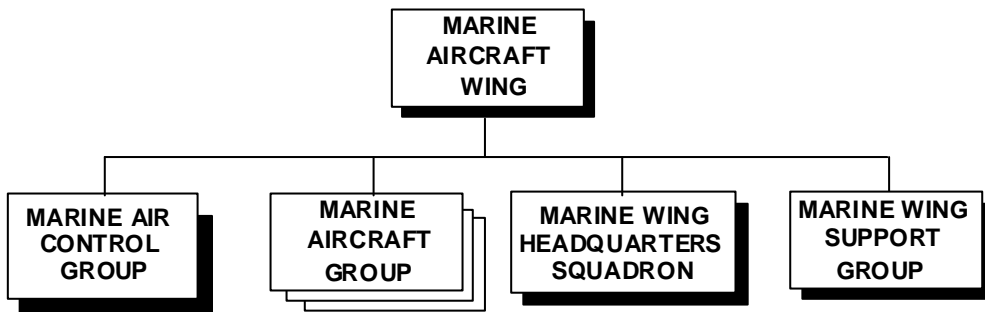
(3) Ground Combat Element. **Marine Division (MarDiv).**

The Marine Division is the largest permanent organization of ground combat power in the Marine Operating Force. A Marine Division may be employed as the Ground Combat Element (GCE) of a large landing force or detach Regimental (RLT) and/or Battalion Landing Teams (BLT) for employment with smaller landing forces. Major subordinate elements of the Marine Division are:



- (a) Infantry Regiments (3)
- (b) Artillery Regiment
- (c) Tank Battalion
- (d) Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion
- (e) Assault Amphibian Battalion
- (f) Combat Engineer Battalion
- (g) Headquarters Battalion

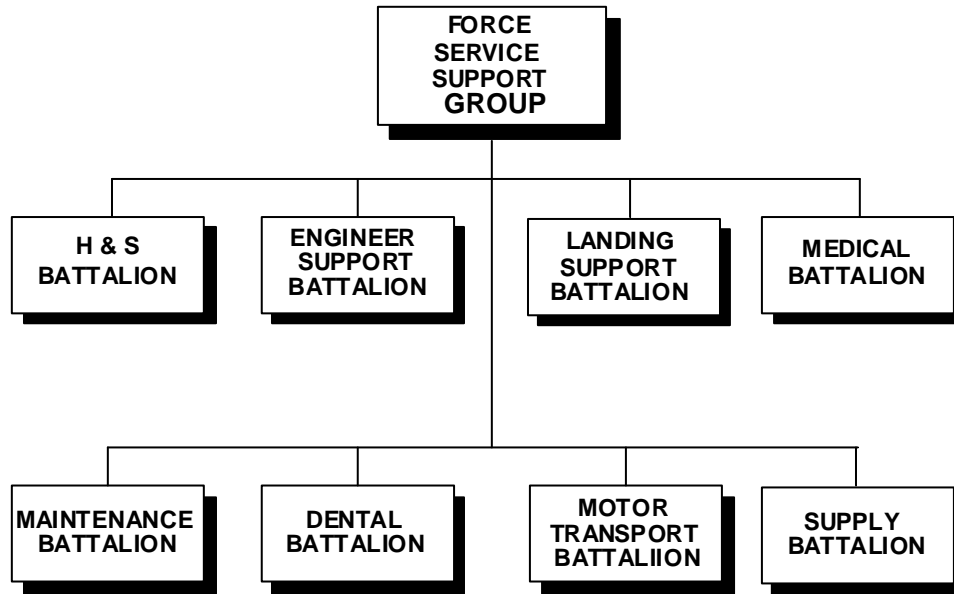
(4) Aviation Combat Element **Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW)**. Largest organization of aviation combat power in the Marine Operating Force. There are three active duty aircraft wings and one reserve. A Marine aircraft wing, which is commanded by a Major General, may be employed as the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) of a large landing force or detach Marine Aircraft Groups and/or composite squadrons to be employed with smaller landing forces.



- (a) Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG).
- (b) Marine Air Group (MAG).
- (c) Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron (MWHS).
- (d) Marine Air Control Group (MACG).

(5) Combat Service Support Element. **Force Service Support Group (FSSG)**. Largest composite grouping of combat service support units in the Marine Operating Force. There are three active duty FSSG's and one reserve FSSG. Each Force Service Support Group, which is normally commanded by a Brigadier General, may be employed as the Combat Service Support Element (CSSE) of a large landing force or detach task organized combat service support elements for employment with smaller landing forces. Major subordinate units of the FSSG are:

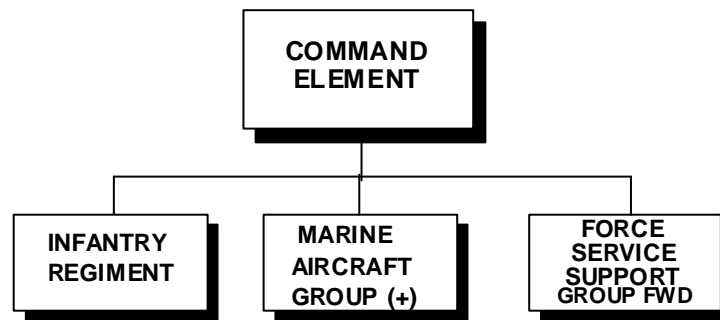
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- (a) Headquarters and Service Battalion
- (b) Engineer Support Battalion
- (c) Landing Support Battalion (combined with MT Bn in 3d FSSG)
- (d) Medical Battalion
- (e) Maintenance Battalion
- (f) Dental Battalion
- (g) Motor Transport (MT) Battalion
- (h) Supply Battalion

5. Marine Expeditionary Force Forward - MEF (FWD). The MEF (FWD) is the forward echelon of a MEF and can remain forward deployed for an extended period. The MEF (FWD) can be configured for deployment as an Air Contingency Force (ACF), a maritime or geographical prepositioning force, or an amphibious force. Typical MEF (FWD) organizations include the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) MEF (FWD), Amphibious MEF (FWD), Norway Airlanded MEF (NALMEF), and the Air Contingency Force (ACF).

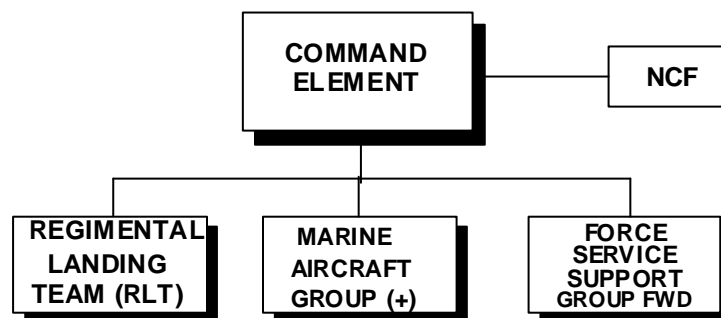
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(*NOTE: The notional MEF (FWD) is basically the same structure and composition as the old Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). Should deployment of the MEF (FWD) be required, the staff would be drawn from the standing MEF staff, under the command of the Deputy MEF Commander. Although new doctrine is in development to support the MEF (FWD) concept, the term MEB is still utilized in existing war plans, and is still the measure when discussing amphibious lift capabilities (MEB) equivalents).

a. Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) MEF (FWD) MAGTF.

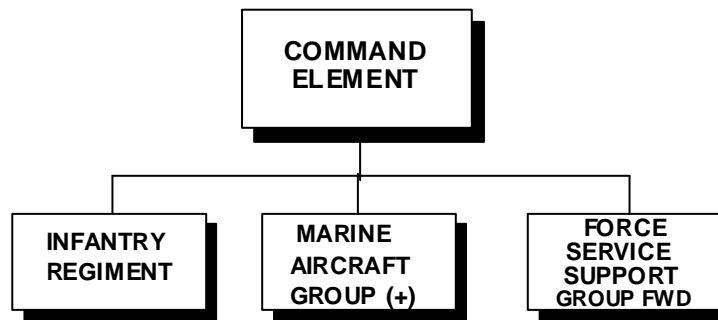
The MPF MEF (FWD) is slightly larger than an amphibious MEF (FWD) and heavily equipped with armor and mechanized assets. It is capable of combat against a sophisticated mechanized force. The prepositioning of MPF equipment afloat reduces strategic airlift requirements and global response time. MPF squadrons are afloat until "married up" with the MPF MEF (FWD) MAGTF. The purpose of the MPF MEF (FWD) MAGTF is to rapidly project combat power into an area. Once established ashore, it can be operationally ready for combat within 7 to 10 days and capable of sustaining operations for 30 days. The MPF MEF (FWD) MAGTF is normally commanded by a brigadier general. MPF operations are a strategic deployment option.



(1) An MPF MEF (FWD) MAGTF is typically organized with the following elements:

- (a) Command Element
- (b) Ground Combat Element
- (c) Aviation Combat Element
- (d) Combat Service Support Element
- (e) Naval Construction Force (NCF) Component

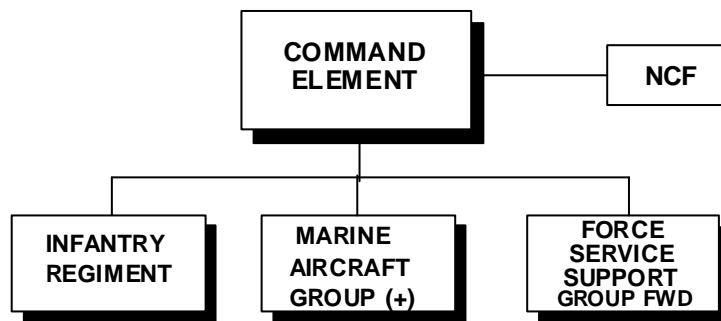
b. **Amphibious MEF (FWD).** The Amphibious MEF (FWD) is the mid sized MEF (FWD) level MAGTF. The CE, GCE, and selected units from the ACE and CSSE form the assault echelon of an amphibious MEF (FWD) and deploy aboard Navy amphibious shipping as a balanced force. The remaining forces of the amphibious MEF (FWD) deploy as an assault follow on echelon (AFOE). An amphibious MEF (FWD) is normally commanded by a brigadier general, and is comprised of the following elements:



- (1) Command Element
- (2) Ground Combat Element
- (3) Aviation Combat Element
- (4) Combat Service Support Element
- (5) Naval Construction Force Component

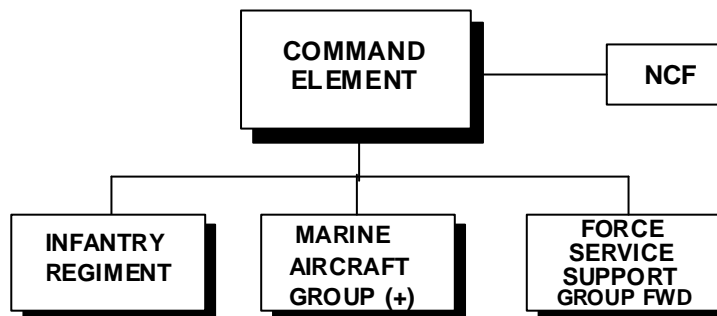
c. **Norway Airlanded MEF (NALMEF).** The smallest MEF (FWD) organization. The NALMEF is commanded by a brigadier general, and is composed of these elements:

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- (1) Command Element
- (2) Ground Combat Element
- (3) Aviation Combat Element
- (4) Combat Service Support Element

d. **Air Contingency Force (ACF) MEF (FWD).** Each MEF has a resident air contingency force MEF (FWD). Organization depends on the mission assigned and the airlift assets available to the ACF. The naval construction force (NCF) component of an ACF is task-organized for the ACF's mission ashore and is normally built around the assets of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion.



6. Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) - MEU(SOC)

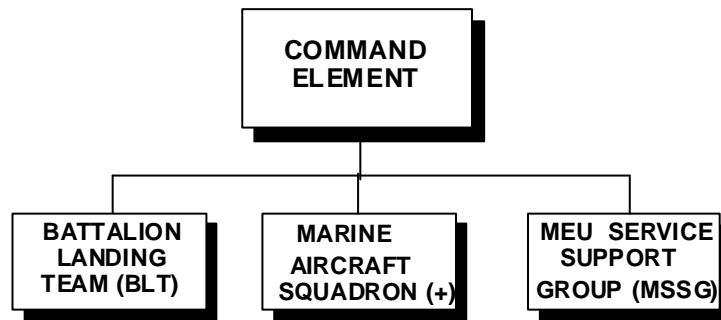
a. In 1983, the Secretary of Defense directed each military service and defense agency to review their existing special operations capabilities and develop a plan for achieving the level of capability required to combat both current and future low intensity conflicts and terrorist threats. In response, the Marine Corps instituted an aggressive SOC training program to optimize the inherent capability of MEU's to conduct selected maritime special operations.

b. Progressive improvement in individual and unit skills attained through enhanced training and the addition of specialized equipment allow a MEU to execute a full range of conventional and selected maritime special operations. This is accomplished by a means of dedicated and intensive pre-deployment

training program of about 26 weeks that emphasizes personnel stabilization coupled with focused, standardized and integrated Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/MEU training. MEU's which have undergone this enhanced training program have been provided special equipment, and have successfully completed a thorough evaluation/certification under the cognizance of the Force Commander shall be designated as SOC. The primary goal for all MEU's shall be certification and designation as SOC prior to deployment.

c. The primary objective of the MEU (SOC) is uniquely organized and equipped to provide the theater CINC's with an effective means of dealing with the uncertainties of future threat, providing a forward deployed unit that is inherently balanced, sustainable, flexible, responsive, expandable and credible. "From the Sea" articulates the vision of MAGTF's participating in naval expeditionary forces of combined arms, which are task-organized, equipped and trained to conduct forward presence and crisis response missions while operating in littoral areas of the world.

d. **Organization.** The forward deployed MEU (SOC) is uniquely organized and equipped to provide the naval or joint force commander with rapidly deployable, sea-based capability with **15 days of sustainment** optimized for forward presence and crisis response missions. The MEU (SOC) may also serve as an enabling force for follow-on MAGTF's (or possibly joint/combined forces) in the event the situation or mission requires additional capabilities and resources. The MEU is comprised of a command element (CE); a reinforced infantry battalion as the ground combat element (GCE); a composite helicopter squadron (ACE); and a combat service support element (CSSE) designated the MEU Service Support Group (MSSG). Currently there are 7 permanent MEU's. 11th, 13th, 15th on the west coast at Camp Pendleton, CA. 22d, 24th and 26th on the east coast at Camp Lejeune and the 31st MEU in Okinawa, Japan. All MEU's have their own identical table of organization, table of equipment, and a separate monitor command code. Most importantly, there are always two deployed MEU's, two deploying MEU's and two MEU's doing the 26 week "work-up" to deployment. 31st MEU in Okinawa has recently begun participation in the regular 6 month deployments rotation.



(1) COMMAND ELEMENT. The CE of the MEU (SOC) is permanently established organization augmented to provide the command and control (C2) functions and the command, control, communications, computers and intelligence systems (C4I) necessary for effective planning and execution of all operations. In addition to permanently assigned Marines, the MEU CE is augmented with detachments from the Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group (SRIG) for deep reconnaissance, fire support, intelligence, electronic warfare, and communications.

(a) **MEU Staff** consists of Headquarters Section, Administration Section (S-1) to include Staff Judge Advocate, Intelligence Section (S-2), Operations Section (S-3), Logistics Section (S-4), Communications Section (S-6). These staff sections are augmented from the SRIG, and normally personnel will attach for two consecutive deployments.

(b) **ATTACHMENTS** include: ANGLICO, FORECON, RADBN, MACG.

1 Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company
(ANGLICO) DET

a Supporting Arms Liaison Team
(**SALT**). Normally assigned to the fire support coordination center (FSCC) of a US Army or allied battalion in joint or combined operations. Team normally consist of seven personnel.

b Fire Control Team (FCT). Task organized to perform universal spotter functions at the company level. Team normally consists of six personnel.

2 Force Reconnaissance Company (FORECON)
DET. Platoon sized unit used for preassault/deep post assault operations and performs as assault element of the Maritime Special Purpose Force. Specialized capabilities includes parachute, SCUBA, and close quarter battle skills.

3 Radio Battalion (RADBN) Detachment.

Consists of a headquarters, processing and reporting element, sensitive information communication element, collection element and an electronic countermeasures element. Provides tactical signal intelligence and electronic warfare support to include limited direction finding, intercept and jamming to the MEU commander.

4 Marine Air Control Group Detachment (DET MACG). Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (LAAD). A MEU will normally deploy with anywhere from five to 15 teams. Each team consists of two personnel and six weapon systems. The teams normally go ashore with the Ground Combat Element in direct support.

5 Marine Air Support Squadron Det (DET MASS). The MEU will normally deploy with two officer controllers, three enlisted operators, and three enlisted communicators. They assist the FSCC to effectively integrate air support.

(2) GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT (GCE). The Ground Combat Element (GCE) is normally structured around a reinforced infantry battalion that forms a **BATTALION LANDING TEAM (BLT)**. Specific reinforcements will vary, but generally include artillery, reconnaissance, light armor (maybe tanks), anti-armor, amphibious assault vehicles, and combat engineer attachments. The battalion consists of an H&S company, four letter companies, and a weapons company. There are two important things to note about the BLT, first, unlike a standard infantry battalion, the BLT when formed comes to full strength in personnel and equipment. Secondly, the companies within the BLT have become specialized. One company in the BLT specializes in Mechanized operations, one company specializes in Helo Operations while the third company specializes in small boat operations. Attachments include:

(a) **Artillery Battery:** A company sized unit, often used as a provisional rifle company, also provides the battalion with long range indirect fire support (when operating ashore). Brings 105/155mm towed artillery and trucking support. Trucks often used for other non-artillery related missions.

(b) **TOW Section:** Attached to weapons company, provides battalion with long range anti-tank capability.

(c) **Assault Amphibian Vehicle Platoon:** Provides mechanized lift for a "mechanized company."

(d) **Reconnaissance Platoon:** Not all MEU's deploy with a Recon Det. Due to

reorganization of the Recon Battalion in the Marine Division, there is a shortage of recon. This unit would provide distant reconnaissance for the battalion. When a recon det is not available, a battalion usually increases the size of their organic Scout Sniper platoon to perform the same missions.

(e) **Combat Engineer Battalion Detachment:**

Limited capability to construct obstacles and conduct demolitions.

(3) Air Combat Element (ACE). The ACE is centered around a composite helicopter squadron that includes AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft. When not assigned to the afloat MEU due to ship constraints (LPH's do not embark Harriers), Harriers are kept on a CONUS stand-by status. A shore based C-130 detachment is also kept on CONUS stand-by to support MEU SOC missions. All pilots train to fly at night with Night Vision Goggles (NVG's), and transport helicopters are configured for Fast Roping. Each ACE deploys with the following elements:

(a) **Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM):** 12 x CH-46E Sea Knights used primarily for helicopter transport of an Infantry Rifle Company (Reinforced).

(b) **Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron Detachment (HMH):** 4 x CH-53E Super Stallions used for long range troop transport, equipment transport and heavy lift.

(c) **Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron Detachment (HMLA):** 4 x AH-1W Cobra attack Helicopters, and 3 x UH-1 Huey Helicopters used for rotary wing close air support (CAS), escort, and Command and Control.

(4) Combat Service Support Element (CSSE). The CSSE is a MEU Service Support Group (MSSG) which provides the full range of combat service support including supply, maintenance, transportation, deliberate engineering, medical and dental, automated information processing, utilities, landing support (port/airfield support operations), disbursing, legal, and postal services and **15 days of sustainability** (Class I, II, III (B), IV, V, VII, VIII, IX) necessary to support MEU (SOC) assigned missions.

(5) Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF). The MSPF is a unique task-organization drawn from the MEU major subordinate elements. The MSPF provides the enhanced operational capability to complement or enable conventional operations or to execute maritime special missions. The MSPF cannot operate

independently of its parent MEU. It relies on the MEU for logistics, intelligence, communications, transportation and supporting fires. Accordingly, command of the MSPF must remain under the control of the MEU commander. The MSPF is organized and trained to be rapidly tailored to the specific mission. It is notionally composed of a command element; a covering element consisting of one or more reinforced rifle companies; and assault element organized to conduct on-scene command, assault, security, and support functions; a reconnaissance and surveillance (R&S) element organized to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance, sniper control and support, counter-intelligence, human and signal intelligence, and electronic warfare; and an aviation support element to provide lift and assault support. The MSPF does not duplicate dedicated Special Operations Forces (SOF) capabilities.

e. **Missions of a MEU(SOC).** The MEU(SOC) is a self-sustained, amphibious, combined arms air-ground task force capable of conventional and selected maritime special operations of limited duration in support of a Combatant commander. The following is the mission statement from MCO 3120.9A (Draft):

"To provide the geographic combatant commander a forward-deployed, rapid crisis response capability by conducting conventional amphibious and selected maritime special operations under the following conditions: at night; under adverse weather conditions; from over the horizon; under emissions control; from the sea, by surface and/or by air; commence execution within 6 hours of receipt of the warning order. To act as an enabling force for a follow-on MAGTF or joint and/or combined forces in support in support of various contingency requirements."

f. **Capabilities.** The inherent capabilities of a forward-deployed MEU(SOC) are divided into four broad categories:

(1) Amphibious Operations

- (a) Amphibious Assault
- (b) Amphibious Raid
- (c) Amphibious Demonstration
- (d) Amphibious Withdrawal

(2) Direct Action Operations

- (a) In-Extremis Hostage Recovery (IHR)

- Facilities.
 - (b) Seizure/Recovery of Offshore Energy
- (VBSS)
 - (c) Visit, Board, Search and Seizure Operations
- (TRAP)
 - (d) Specialized Demolition Operations
 - (e) Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel
- Material
 - (f) Seizure/Recovery of Selected Personnel or
- Destruction
 - (g) Counterproliferation (CP) of Weapons of Mass (WMD)
- (3) Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW)
 - (a) **Peace Operations**
 - 1 Peacekeeping
 - 2 Peace Enforcement
 - (b) **Security Operations**
 - 1 Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)
 - 2 Reinforcement Operations
 - (c) **Joint/Combined Training/Instruction Team**
 - (d) **Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster relief**
- (4) Supporting Operations
 - (a) Tactical Deception Operations
 - (b) Fire Support Planning, Coordination, and Control in a Joint/Multinational environment
 - (c) Signal Intelligence (SIGINT)/Electronic Warfare (EW)
 - (d) Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT)
 - (e) Reconnaissance and Surveillance (R&S)
 - (f) Initial Terminal Guidance (ITG)

- (g) Counterintelligence (CI) Operations
- (h) Airfield/Port Seizure
- (i) Limited Expeditionary Airfield (EAF) Operations
- (j) Show of Force Operations
- (k) JTF Enabling Operations
- (l) Sniping Operations

g. **Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF).** SPMAGTF's are MAGTF's organized to accomplish missions which other MAGTF's would be inappropriate or too large. They are linked directly to a precise set of circumstances, limited in time and space, and organized to support the specifics of a particular situation. SPMAGTF's fulfill a purpose by providing Marine capabilities for extreme circumstances such as disaster relief or unique instances such as an oil spill or forest fire. They are also capable of limited combat operations such as a NEO in a permissive environment.

h. **MEU (SOC) Training Program and Certification Process.** The most significant difference between the current MEU (SOC) program and the old training for Marine Amphibious Units in the 1970/early 1980's is that an intensive 26 week predeployment training program (PTP) or "work-up" exists. The training program is standardized and follows a progressive building-block approach to training. This training program integrates the Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) and MEU as well as other designated forces (i.e. CVBG) to optimize coordination and use of capabilities. The 26 week "work-up" culminates in a Special Operations Capable Exercise (SOCEX) that realistically evaluates the MEU's warfighting capabilities. Only MEU's which have demonstrated proficiency in the skills and capabilities listed above will be designated as "MEU(SOC)".

7. Enabling Force. Marines can be used as enabling forces or "the opening blow" for other forces because they are forward deployed (sea based) or rapidly deployable (airlift), they can be employable in combination (by air and sea), and they are self sustaining forces which provide a special operations capability.

8. Deployment Options. Using a concept known as global sourcing, the Marine Corps has many deployment options which serve to make the force totally deployable with current strategic lift. Through a variety of means such as amphibious lift,

Maritime Prepositioning Ships, strategic airlift, and other means which provide strategic flexibility, this mobility and flexibility provides the usefulness that our nation requires. This additionally allows the Marine Corps to rapidly bring together various Marine forces (e.g., Amphibious, Air Contingency, and Maritime Prepositioning Forces) to develop a large, potent fighting force. The Marine Corps can meet regional contingency requirements and initial global war requirements without mobilization. The Marine Corps can strategically position reservoirs of Marines based on their expeditionary capability.

REFERENCES:

1. Joint Pub 1-02, Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms
2. Joint Pub 3-02, Doctrine for Amphibious Operations
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4. FMFM 2, MAGTF Doctrine
5. FMFRP 2-12, Marine Air-Ground Task Force: A Global Capability
6. FMFRP 1-11, Fleet Marine Force Organization, 1992
7. MCO 3120.9A, Policy for MEU (SOC) Training and Certification Process (Draft)